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EAST TIMOR
HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE

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Director: Ms Maria Brett Chair: Bishop Hilton Deakin

URGENT ACTION

1 May 1996

NAMES: Antonio Luis Soares
Afonso Gonçalves

VIOLATIONS: Arbitrary arrest / Fear of torture

LOCATION: East Timor

Ref: UA 1/96
Further information:

The East Timor Human Rights Centre is concerned for the safety of Antonio Luis Soares and Afonso Gonçalves who were arrested in late December 1995 in relation to the alleged manuafacture of home-made bombs known as "Molotov Cocktails".

Afonso Gonçalves was arrested on the afternoon of December 30 1995 at Bairo Pite, Dili and accused of manufacturing "Molotov Cocktails". He was taken to Police Headquarters at Comoro, Dili, where he was interrogated and brutally tortured. Security Police demanded disclosure of the identity of others involved in the maufacture of the "Molotov Cocktails". Because of the torture inflicted, Afonso lied and named his friend Antonio Luis Soares.

Soares, who is a Member of the local Parliament of Manatuto, was arrested by Security Police on December 30 1995 at 2.00am at his home in Manatuto, together with five boys (identity and age unknown) who were also living at his home. All six were arrested without a warrants.

The following day (31 December 1995), an official warrant was issued for the arrest of Soares. The prisoner refused for five days to provide any information without legal representation, so on 5 January 1996, Police went to interrogate his Uncle, a Mr Bosco. Bosco was forced to attend Police Headquarters in order to convince the prisoner to provide information without legal representation. Under pressure and fearing for his Uncle's safety, Antonio agreed in writing to be interrogated for three weeks without any legal representation.

One of the five boys was released on 31 December 1995 while the other four were released three weeks after Soares signed the agreement. These four boys are still required to report to Police Headquarters on a daily basis.

Afonso Gonçalves and Antonio Luis Soares are still in detention awaiting trial. The ETHRC is concerned that both prisoners, especially Antonio Luis Soares, may have been arbitrarily detained. The ETHRC is also concerned that they may not have access to independent lawyers and and may be at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Please send faxes/telegrams/express/airmail letters in English, Bahasa Indonesia or your own language:

- seeking the immediate release of Antonio Luis Soares
- seeking clarification of the charges against Afonso Gonçalves
- seeking assurances that they will not face any torture or ill-treatment in detention and that they will be treated humanely and in accordance with international standards
- seeking assurances that they will have full and continuing access to lawyers of their own choice and to representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

SEND APPEALS TO:

1. CHIEF OF POLICE FOR EAST TIMOR
   Lt. Col. Andreas Sugianto
   Kapolda Timor Timur
   Dili
   East Timor (Indonesia)
   Telegrams: Kapolda, Dili, East Timor
   Salutation: Dear Lieutenant-Colonel

ALSO SEND COPIES TO:

1. MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
   Ali Alitas S.H.
   Menteri Luar Negeri
   Jl. Medan Taman Pejambon No. 6
   Jakarta
   Indonesia
   Faxes: +62 21 345 0517 / 360 517

2. SECRETARY GENERAL, NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
   Prof. Dr. Baharuddin Lopa
   Sekretaris Jenderal, Komisi Nasional Hak Azasi Manusia (KOMNAS HAM)
   Jl Pemuda No.104
   Arawamangun
   Jakarta Timur
   Indonesia

and to diplomatic representatives of East Timor in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY

(Check with the East Timor Human Rights Centre if sending appeals after 25 June 1996)